

FLEET URBAN DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR 1911.







# ANNUAL REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1911.

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FLEET,

March 16th, 1912.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Fleet Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the health of our District during the year 1911. The past summer was one of exceptional heat and dryness, though the actual rainfall for the whole year was above the average, owing to the severe rains of December, which were worse than in any December for twenty-five years.

Weather has a profound influence upon public health. It is therefore gratifying to be able to report that in spite of the trying extremes of last year, the public health has been very good, with two mortifying exceptions in the Autumn, which has spoilt the record.

Since my last report the Decennial Census has been taken, and shows that the population of Fleet has increased from 2,021 in 1901 to 3,281 in 1911.

Considerable progress has been effected in the direction of making up, guttering and kerbing the roads and improving the paths, but much yet remains to be done. I wish I could say that our District is any tidier than last year, but many of the ancient eyesores still offend. One spot, however, of flagrant offensiveness, has been more or less obliterated; but until the cleanliness of our district becomes an object of personal pride to each inhabitant, I can suggest no method by which these nuisances on waste spaces can be remedied.

Few new houses have been erected during the past year, but the condition of a large number of workmen's cottages has been investigated under the Regulations of the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909. The results of the inspection were extremely satisfactory, and in one row of houses only (four in number) was it necessary to order extensive repairs. With this exception, the houses were found to be clean and wholesome; ceilings, walls, floors, and windows in good repair; good provision of light and air; usually a healthy and satisfactory water supply; no overcrowding; the sanitary arrangements were in nearly every case of the primitive pail type, but carried out with cleanliness and care.

Each year leads to the condemnation of further wells in the district, and it is to be hoped that in the fullness of time every house will derive its water supply from the main. The appended remarks of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector upon subsoil waters and shallow wells in the district will serve to emphasise the dangers.

The water supplied by the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company is pronounced by Doctor Thresh, the leading authority, in his analysis dated March 7th, 1912, to be "excellent for the purposes of domestic supply. Bacteriologically it is of very excellent quality. It contains a few bacteria, but none of them of an objectionable type. In addition it has been softened to the required standard."



The milk supply continues to maintain its high standard of cleanliness and purity, in spite of the difficulties of the summer drought. It is nevertheless very desirable to adopt the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885—Fleet is almost the only Urban District in Hampshire where it is not in force—as no stone should be left unturned to secure and maintain a pure supply. In March, 1907, when addressing a deputation upon this subject, the President of the Local Government Board said “Everything seems to point to the County Council as the proper authority for dealing with this”—namely the enforcing of strict regulations as regards the healthiness, housing and care of cows, the personal cleanliness of the milkers, washing of churns, etc, etc. But we can do a little to help ourselves in this important matter.

The drainage of the district is as it was and always has been: each year through official and unofficial channels more and more complaints reach me of the difficulties with which householders have to contend in dealing with their sewage, especially in such wet weather as the last six months. But a feeble ray of hope has at length penetrated the darkness of despair. During the spring of last year the Council had under consideration a scheme for main drainage, and after some discussion thought it wiser to consult the general body of ratepayers before committing themselves to definite action. The Referendum held in December showed a large majority in favour of main drainage. Three engineers have been selected to submit schemes, and Mr. Percy Boulnois has been asked to arbitrate between them.

As Medical Officer of Health I can only say how relieved I am that we have progressed thus far upon the path of cleanliness and safety: there has been already too much delay. The occurrence of two cases of Typhoid Fever in the autumn is the writing on the wall, and should bring home to every ratepayer his personal responsibility in the matter. I merely repeat what I said in previous reports that the present sanitary state of Fleet is a constant danger and disgrace.

As regards the disposal of house refuse, I regret to state there is but little improvement, and householders are still slow to avail themselves of the scavenging cart which regularly passes their doors: it is less trouble to throw the refuse upon the garden plots. No arrangement has been made to deal with trade refuse.

The Schools have been inspected and found to be in fairly satisfactory condition. The rooms are still brushed out every night and washed down once a month. I still do not consider this monthly washing sufficient. In my two last reports I pleaded for more frequent and thorough washings, preferably with disinfectants, but so far my advice has been neglected.

No steps has been taken to secure financial help for those parents whose children are considered by the County Council School Medical Inspectors to want treatment, without which the systematic inspection is practically useless. I pointed this out in my last report.

The new Infants' School will ease the pressure in the old Schools and give more room and air.

No closure of the Schools for epidemic disease has been necessary.

There have been sixty-five births and twenty-three deaths during the year, and four deaths besides of non-residents occurring in public institutions in the district.

The birth-rate is 19·8 per 1000, as against 17·9 in 1910. The Total for England and Wales during 1911 being about 24·4 per 1,000.

The death-rate is 7·01 per 1,000 living, as against 11·3 in 1910, the total rate for England and Wales during 1911 being 14·6. When the deaths of infants under one month and suicides are deducted, the death-rate is only 5·4 per 1,000,



which is extremely low, and the average age at death 59½ years. There were three deaths of infants—all under one month—a death-rate of 46 per 1,000: but practically the infantile mortality can be regarded as nil, which is especially satisfactory in view of the severe and widespread epidemic of “Summer Diarrhoea” last year. There were no deaths from infectious disease. There was one death from cancer and one from pulmonary tuberculosis, a rate of .3 per 1,000. There were no deaths from Bronchitis or Pneumonia. Up to the end of September there had been no case of the more serious and therefore notifiable zymotic diseases; but the purity of our record for the year was spoilt by the occurrence of two cases of Typhoid Fever in the Autumn. No cause could be found to account for them, but this disease is particularly likely to arise after very dry summers, and its presence is always a reason for great anxiety. I give a list of the notifiable diseases for the last four years.

	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Scarlet Fever	... 7	... 2	... 1	... 0
Diphtheria	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 2
Typhoid Fever	... 1	... 0	... 0	... 2
Erysipelas	... 1	... 3	... 3	... 4

There has been no case of Acute Poliomyelitis, which has been epidemic in some counties.

In my dual capacity of Medical Officer of Health and Public Vaccinator I again call your attention to the serious increase in unvaccinated children under the absurd “Conscientious Objection” clause. The President of the Local Government Board gave the following figures in reply to a question in the House of Commons :—

	Conscientious Objections.	Percentage of Births.
1907	57,675	6.3
1908	162,799	17.3
1909	190,689	20.9
1910	230,947	25.7

And in 1911 probably many more. These figures speak for themselves—one out of every four children born remain unvaccinated! It is terrible to contemplate what will happen when Smallpox, as it inevitably will, comes into our homes. I recommended the Council last year to make a representation to the Local Government Board on this subject, but as far as I know, nothing has been done. Pulmonary Tuberculosis is now a compulsorily notifiable disease—previously it was voluntary.

No action has been taken towards providing a steam disinfector for clothes, bedding, etc., from infected houses, as I have urged in my last two reports.

The notification of Births Act, 1907, which I have advised in my last two reports to ensure the proper notification of still-births and regular distribution of pamphlets upon the care and feeding of infants, has not been adopted yet.

No action has yet been taken by the Council to secure a site for a Cemetery. I put forward the matter for their consideration last year.

The factories and workshops have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory and wholesome condition; but for these and further details of our work during 1911, I beg to refer you to the appended report of our Sanitary Inspector whom once more I wish to thank for his invaluable and ungrudging help.

Before closing this Report, I have several recommendations to put before you once again : I urge you to consider :—

- 1. The present position of vaccination and the inevitable dangers ensuing from increasing exemptions.
- 2. The inadequate disinfection and cleaning of the Elementary Schools.
- 3. The adoption of the Notification of Births Act (1907) and Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Act (1885).
- 4. The provision of a steam disinfecter.
- 5. The partial failure of house refuse collection.
- 6. The disposal and removal of trade refuse.
- 7. The desirability of purchasing a site for a Cemetery.
- 8. The medical treatment of School-children.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. FRERE,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

VITAL STATISTICS OF FLEET URBAN DISTRICT  
During 1911 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS,		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	3,000	62	—	20·6	30	10	3	—	2	32	27	9
1909	3,200	75	—	23·5	46	14·4	4	—	5	66	42	13·1
1910	3,400	61	—	17·9	40	11·76	2	1	7	11·47	39	11·3
1911	3,281	65	65	19·8	23	7·01	3	3	3	46·1	23	7·01

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water) ... } 1,530

Total population at all ages, 3,281  
Number of inhabited houses, 877  
Average number of persons per house, 3½

At  
Census  
of 1911



# CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1911 IN FLEET URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.						TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
		ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes	Certified	19	3	1	1	4	10	4
	Uncertified	4	—		1	3		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...		1				1		
Rheumatic Fever ...		1		1				
Cancer, malignant disease ...		1					1	
Pneumonia ...								1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...		1				1		
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition...		1			1			
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth ...		3	3					1
Suicides ...		2			1	1		
Other Defined Diseases		13				4	9	2

# FLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,

FLEET,

6th March, 1912.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Fleet Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report as your Sanitary Inspector.

I have again to record that the district has remained free from nuisances of a serious nature.

HOUSE REFUSE.—A weekly collection of house refuse is made, but a large number of the inhabitants prefer to dispose of the household waste on their gardens.

WATER SUPPLY.—Eight well waters have been examined, four wells closed and new supplies laid on, and one well improved structurally. Forty-five new supplies have been laid on by the Frimley & Farnborough Water Company.

In spite of the exceptionally dry summer the rainfall for the year was just above the average, owing to the abnormal amount which fell in December. This was 7.35 inches against an average of 3.50. The total rainfall amounted to 27.40 inches compared with 32.69 last year.

A monthly record has been kept of the subsoil water level as shown by the water levels in wells in several parts of the district. This varies from 244 feet above Ordnance Datum on the South of the district to about 222 feet near Fleet Pond. As showing the influence of rainfall on the subsoil water level it is interesting to note that the rise of the water in the shallower wells almost immediately responded to the increasing rainfall of September and the following months, whilst the deeper well waters continued to fall until the beginning of December. The water level in the deeper wells has not varied more than a foot, whilst two of the shallower wells have risen six feet in two months.

INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.—Four cases of erysipelas, three of phthisis pulmonalis, and two of enteric fever, have been notified during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—No new workshops have been registered during this year. Those already on the register are as follows:—

<i>Slaughter Houses.</i>	<i>Cowkeepers</i>	<i>Dairies Milkshops Purveyors</i>	<i>Bakehouses</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Workshops</i>
2	1	4	5	4	26



HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Thirty-eight inspections have been made under this Act, but as most of the houses are comparatively new, and possess gardens from 100 to 200 feet long, little cause of complaint has been observed.

Of the houses inspected, just over one half depend upon wells for their water supply; the others have the Companys' water laid on; one has a W.C., the remainder pail closets. The average number of occupants including children per house is 5·17, and the average size of ground belonging to each house is 3612 square feet. In only three cases do the occupiers have their house refuse removed by the Council.

In the case of one of the older rows of cottages a considerable improvement has been effected, the houses having been put in good condition from floor to roof.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK DURING 1911.

Drains inspected	...	...	...	20
„ defect found	...	...	...	12
„ „ remedied	...	...	...	15
Complaints <i>re</i> cesspools	...	...	...	4
„ smoke nuisance	...	...	...	1
„ overcrowding	...	...	...	1
„ keeping of animals and fowls	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ abated	...	...	...	1
Waste water discharged on to roads	...	...	...	7
„ „ into roadside ditches	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse and manure found	...	...	...	8
or complained of	...	...	...	6
removed	...	...	...	1
Rubbish shoot closed	...	...	...	1
Closets cleansed and improved	...	...	...	1
„ rebuilt	...	...	...	3
Ceiling and walls whitened and papered or	...	...	...	4
distempered in	...	...	...	houses
Floors renewed and repaired in	...	...	...	3
Eaves, gutters, etc., repaired in	...	...	...	8
Consignment of shell fish condemned	...	...	...	1
Inspections and re-visits under Housing and	...	...	...	62
Town Planning Act	...	...	...	14
„ of dairies and the one cowshed	...	...	...	10
„ bakehouses	...	...	...	40
„ factories, workshops and	...	...	...	18
slaughterhouses	...	...	...	10
General inspection of premises	...	...	...	1
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	
Bedding destroyed	...	...	...	

In addition, eight deposits of pail contents were found on a plot of building land. Enquiries were made, but the offender could not be traced.

I have again to thank you for your kind support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. J. CHIVERS.



